

**From:** [Nickle, Richard \(ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB\)](#)  
**To:** [Risher, John \(ATSDR/DTEM/ATB\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Durant, James T. \(ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB\)](#); [Olivares, Dagny \(ATSDR/OC\)](#); [Holler, James S. \(Jim\) \(ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB\)](#); [Murray, Ed \(ATSDR/DTEM/OD\)](#); [Fowler, Bruce \(ATSDR/DTEM/OD\)](#); [Robert Safay/R4/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Patrick Young/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [George Pettigrew/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Fact sheet  
**Date:** 04/27/2010 10:17 AM

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OK, thanks John.

This information is intended to be shared with the Joint Information Center and combined with other information from the other agencies involved. That includes, at present, a Deputy Secretary for the Department of Interior representing the Mineral Management Service and the US Wildlife and Fisheries service. My expectations are that they will address the wildlife issues.

In a related matter, LA has a 5 agency 60 page process that I downloaded this morning to determine if seafood advisories are necessary in their waters. I expect FL, AL, and MS have similar protocols that I haven't found, given how important the seafood industry is to all of those states. So I don't think we should be addressing those issues either.

My understanding from the comments by the EPA OSC outpost in Mobile is that people are already concerned enough about the odors that they are talking to their doctors. I'd like to have those providers go to Poison Control instead of us if they need advice; the Poison Controls are already receptive to that idea.

Based on the characteristics in NOAA's Database, the crude oil from other wells in this field does not contain benzene at detectable levels, but does contain between 25-30% of other aromatics. Probably the most hazardous compound involved in that fraction then is toluene. Of the 70% described as saturated hydrocarbons, PAHs and paraffins are also less than 1%. As I understand it, that leaves straight chain hydrocarbons in that 70%.

*Rich Nickle*

*ATSDR Emergency Response*

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**From:** Risher, John (ATSDR/DTEM/ATB)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2010 10:18 AM  
**To:** Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); 'Safay.Robert@epamail.epa.gov'; 'Young.Patrick@epamail.epa.gov'; 'Pettigrew.George@epamail.epa.gov'  
**Cc:** Durant, James T. (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); Olivares, Dagny (ATSDR/OC); Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); Murray, Ed (ATSDR/DTEM/OD); Fowler, Bruce (ATSDR/DTEM/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Fact sheet

Rich,

As usual, you did a great job. I have just three comments. The first is that under “What is in the Air?” I believe you mean “lose” and not “loose.” The second is that the primary hazard is to wildlife, such waterfowl, whose feathers and other parts of their integumentary system can be severely damaged by the oil. Also, oil could block the exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide in the gills of fish. Also under “What will be coming ashore with the Oil?” I think calling the poison control center is unnecessary. The dermatological problem you describe would most likely be an immune response to contact with the skin, rather than a systemic problem. Breathing-in the volatilized vapors would likely result first in CNS symptoms similar to excessive alcohol consumption. Some of the BTEX compounds might still be volatilizing

Finally, other than infants, toddlers, and very young children, youths might not necessarily be more sensitive. For example, eighth or ninth graders (and perhaps even younger children) should have sufficiently keratinized skin than babies or toddlers.

We want to provide useful information, but not scare the pants off of parents or hypochondriacs.

John

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**From:** Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB)

**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2010 4:35 PM

**To:** 'Safay.Robert@epamail.epa.gov'; 'Young.Patrick@epamail.epa.gov'; Pettigrew.George@epamail.epa.gov

**Cc:** Durant, James T. (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); Olivares, Dagny (ATSDR/OC); Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); Murray, Ed (ATSDR/DTEM/OD); Risher, John (ATSDR/DTEM/ATB); Fowler, Bruce (ATSDR/DTEM/OD)

**Subject:** Draft Fact sheet

OK, here is a **very very very** rough cut of a fact sheet to address the requests from your region. I think some of it is way too long, but it is one page front and back. It is usually easier to cut than to add. We need to fine tune the science to make sure what we think is what is real. The basic concepts came from the ToxFAQs and some site specific info I found at NOAA. Hopefully, John, James, Jim, and Bruce can help with critical reviews on the science and perhaps Dagny with language, tone, and format? My big concern at this point is whether the topics are comprehensive enough given that this will get mixed – and, like as not, matched – with other agency’s info at the Joint Information Center to complete the whole picture for the public.

Anyway, take a look and let me know.

*Rich Nickle*

*ATSDR Emergency Response*

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